	<p>West Greenland Commission</p> <p><i>Compilation of Responses Submitted by West Greenland Commission members / jurisdictions in Relation to Questions 1.2 and 4.1 of the Annual Progress Reports for the Calendar Years 2018, 2019 and 2020</i></p>	<p>WGC(21)08</p> <p>Agenda Item 4</p>
---	--	---

Compilation of Responses Submitted by West Greenland Commission members / jurisdictions in Relation to Questions 1.2 and 4.1 of the Annual Progress Reports for the Calendar Years 2018, 2019 and 2020

In order to inform discussion of [Agenda item 4](#) of the 2021 Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission, ‘Progress in the Management of Salmon Fisheries, Habitat Protection and Restoration and Aquaculture and Related Activities in States of Origin’, the Secretariat has compiled the responses submitted by the relevant West Greenland Commission Parties / jurisdictions relating to Sections 1.2 (*Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight*) and 4.1 (*Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification*) of the Annual Progress Reports for the Calendar Years 2018, 2019 and 2020, i.e. the years in which the current regulatory measure, [WGC\(18\)11](#), applied.

Canada

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: while the trend of declining returns continued in 2018, the Government of Canada implemented a series of measures to ensure that salmon conservation remains a top priority. The management regime of mandatory catch and release has been implemented in nearly all of the southern ranges of the Atlantic coast. In the northern ranges, a combination of measures was used, including limits to catch, catch and release, and even the closing of rivers where sustainability targets were not being met.

To inform decision-making, Canada continued to engage with Indigenous groups, other levels of government, and non-governmental stakeholders, as well as rely on science assessment data.

Lastly, the Government of Canada initiated a process to advance the objectives and principles of the Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy. This included establishing a working group comprised of members of the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Advisory Group to initiate the development of the domestic Salmon Policy Implementation Plan. The Plan was drafted as a consensus-based document, and once approved, will serve to guide the collective efforts of all stakeholders to ensure salmon conservation and sustainability.

2019: the Government of Canada continued to implement a series of management measures aimed at restoring and maintaining wild Atlantic salmon populations, such as: mandatory catch and release in nearly all of the southern ranges of the Atlantic coast; and a combination of measures in northern ranges, including limits to catch, catch and release, and even the closing of rivers where sustainability targets were not being met.

To inform decision-making, Canada continued to engage with Indigenous groups, other levels of government, and non-governmental stakeholders, to bolster science assessment data. Through the Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture (ASRJV), the Government of Canada continued to partner and collaborate with all interested experts to develop a comprehensive understanding of the causes of the global decline of Atlantic Salmon. The Joint Venture was very active in the 2019 focal year of the International Year of the Salmon, and hosted the first

Canadian Atlantic Salmon Ecosystem Forum examining “salmon and people in a changing world” in Quebec City in March 2019.

Lastly, in May 2019, the Government of Canada announced a three-year domestic plan, the Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation: Implementation Plan 2019-2021. The Plan was developed in close collaboration with interested stakeholders, provincial governments, and Indigenous communities, and contains 18 action items which form a multi-pronged program of work that guides the collective efforts of all stakeholders for the conservation and sustainability of wild Atlantic salmon stocks. A key example is the work DFO has initiated, in partnership with provincial and Indigenous governments, to adopt a “river-by-river” model for the management of Atlantic salmon in the Miramichi River system. The new initiative seeks to expand the scope of managing Atlantic salmon and its habitat towards an ecosystem-based and multi-species approach.

2020: notwithstanding the COVID-19 public health measures in 2020, and their impacts on activities related to the fishing and management of wild Atlantic salmon, the Government of Canada continued to implement a series of management measures aimed at restoring and maintaining wild Atlantic salmon populations.

The management measures are guided by Canada's Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation: Implementation Plan 2019-2021. The Plan was developed in close collaboration with interested stakeholders, provincial governments, and Indigenous communities, and contains 18 action items which form a multi-pronged program of work that guides the collective efforts of all stakeholders for the conservation and sustainability of wild Atlantic salmon stocks.

In 2020, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) launched a second call for proposals under the \$50 million Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP). The contribution component of this program is designed to promote collaboration between DFO and Indigenous groups to support conservation and protection, monitoring and planning activities related to fish and fish habitat across Canada, including for Atlantic salmon.

Moreover, in 2020, work continued on several ongoing projects to restore Atlantic salmon habitat and improve fish passage. These projects are funded through Canada's Coastal Restoration Fund, Habitat Stewardship Program and the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no response provided.

2019: the modernized Fisheries Act (Act) came into force on August 28, 2019. Upon the Act coming into force, the Fisheries Protection Program (FPP) became the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (FFHPP). FFHPP also released a policy statement that summarized its interpretation of the key provisions in the modernized Act, as well as guidance for proponents applying for Fisheries Act authorizations, and two interim codes of practice.

2020: none, other than those noted in the responses in the progress report, document [CNL\(21\)45](#).

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: in 2018, a new Executive Order introduced several new measures in the management and control of the salmon fishery in Greenland. This included:

- licensing of private fishermen;
- 0-catch-reporting;
- Non-reporting will result in no license being issued in the coming season.

Additionally, a new initiative to assist the implementation of the new measures was initiated. The Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture and the Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK) forwarded a letter to the licensed fishermen that had not reported in order to inform them again on the new regulatory measures and urge them to report their catches. This was further supported by a Press Release with the same message. This resulted in an improved reporting rate of more than 70% as per this date.

2019: a study on the effect of reminding license holders to report catches by SMS-notifications have had positive outcome, while a salmon fishing survey were developed, both under the guidance of scientist Hunter T. Snyder. Results from the survey will be ready during 2020 as well as the final analysis of the impact of SMS-notifications, both is expected to lead to further initiatives and improvements in reporting and regulation.

From 2018 to 2019, license holders reporting catches has increased by 10%, suggesting that the implementation of the new regulatory measure and executive order has improved further.

2020: it is obligatory to report any salmon catches, or attempts at catches, to the Greenland's Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK). In 2020, this task has become available through the online portal www.sullissivik.gl, and have thus been made easier for the fishermen to comply.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: new Greenland Government's Order no. 5 of 21 September 2018 on salmon fishing.

2019: no changes to the current Executive Order of September 2018.

2020: a new Executive Order on fishery for salmon was adopted in 2020, including the new option to report online and a shorter period to report 0-catches as well as the exclusion of drift nets in the fishery. All other restrictions remain.

European Union – Denmark

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: the rebuilt stocks in the four major rivers are now at a level where supportive stocking can be phased out. This has happened in the river Storå where the last salmon were stocked in 2017. If the improvement of numbers continue, stocking will be commenced, whereas sports fishing will continue at current level.

2019: nothing new.

2020: no significant news.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: none.

2019: none.

2020: none.

European Union – Finland

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: new agreement between Finland and Norway on the River Teno / Tana salmon fisheries was applied second time for fishing season 2018. Fishing rules reduce fishing time for all gear types used. Aim is to reduce fishing mortality by 30%, in order to enable recovery of weak salmon stocks especially in the upper reaches of the Teno system. New agreement is in line with the NASCO recommendations concerning stock-specific, target-based management of salmon fisheries. Monitoring data from the River Teno indicated that the new regulation has reduced fishing mortality at the expected rate. The observed reduction rate will enable recovery of the weak salmon stocks in the estimated time-frame, two salmon generations, as planned.

2019: reduction of the fishing mortality by 30%, as planned in the Tana-fishing rule.

2020: reduction of the fishing mortality by 30%, as planned in the Tana fishing rule

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no response provided.

2019: a new section (119 §) about forfeiture payments (conservation value of endangered species) was included to the Finnish Fisheries Act. Fisher who has kept an illegally caught fish may be charged with a forfeiture. Forfeitures have been defined for a range of species and the values vary. Forfeiture value for Atlantic Salmon is among the highest, 3420 € / individual. This amendment was added to strengthen sanctions of fisheries law offences.

2020: no response provided.

European Union – France

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: most of the regional management actions are referenced in the PLAGEPOMIs. They consider management methods that must be applied locally in order to preserve the species. The strategic elements of PLAGEPOMIs must be integrated into the Master plans for development and water management (SDAGE) so that the two documents are coherent on measures relating to aquatic environments. SDAGE should be updated for the third cycle 2022 – 2027 and published in December 2021.

In France, the link with the action plans for the marine environment is based on the compatibility of the SDAGE with the environmental objectives of these plans, so the actions on the salmon are well focused on the ecological continuum.

The 2nd cycle of the French implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, adopted in 2019, addresses salmon conservation and management. Environmental indicators linked to salmon conservation and management are followed up in that framework.

2019: salmon management is organized in France by various systems which have been or will be subject to revision:

- the migratory fish or ‘Plagepomi’ management plans, where regional management actions and methods are referenced, will be revised at the same time as the SDAGE before December 2021; In fact, the strategic elements of Plagepomis must be integrated into the Master plans for development and water management (SDAGE), so that the two documents

are coherent on measures relating to aquatic environments;

- the facade strategic documents (FSD) were adopted for 6 years at the end of 2019, their action plans and the monitoring system will have to be developed by the end of 2021 (environmental indicators linked to salmon conservation and management are followed up in that framework).

In addition, France adopted the Biodiversity plan in 2018 which provides, amongst others, for the development of multi-species action plans for the most endangered species, in order to identify actions that simultaneously contribute to the preservation of several species, and several spaces (action 42).

Moreover, in 2019, the French Ministry of ecology convened a national summit about freshwater management ("Assises de l'eau"), which concluded notably that river continuity should be regained, with an objective of restoring 25,000 km of rivers by 2022.

Finally, in 2019, first steps were carried out so as to set up a national mobilisation plan for diadromous fishes (PNMA) in order to have a overall vision of the state and management practices of all these species, to work from the existing devices (SDAGE, FSD, Plagepomi, Nasco IP...) and promote their synergy, by activating the biodiversity-freshwater-sea link. This plan is to be integrated into the upcoming French Biodiversity Strategy 2021.

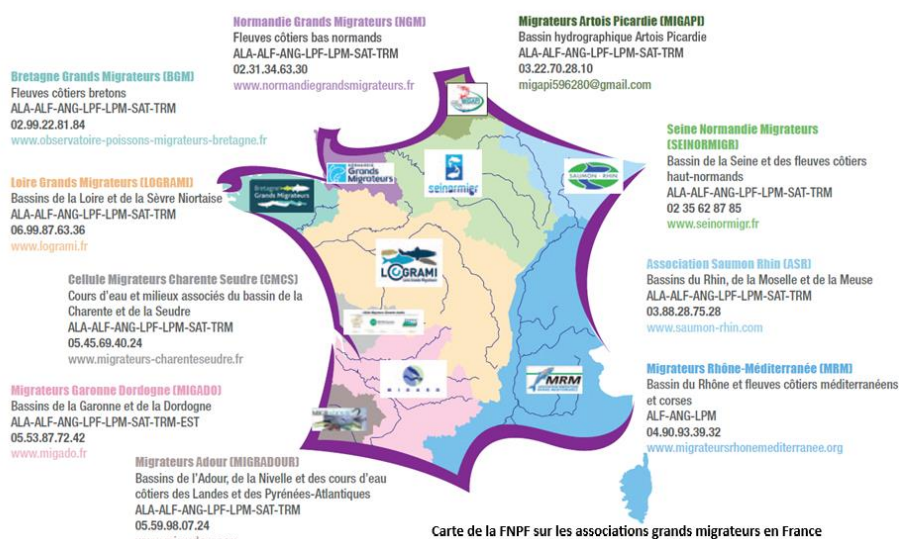
The PNMA's actions will be defined at the national level, to support the implementation of existing devices in France. They aim for concrete and achievable results within fixed deadlines with identified managers and resources: they will have to be SMART.

The development of the PNMA must result from consultation with stakeholders, including users sitting in Cogepomis (recreational fishermen, professional freshwater fishermen, professional sea fishing, fish farming, hydroelectricity, agriculture, etc.), with a steering involving the administrations concerned and under the joint authority of the ministries of fisheries and ecology.

2020: As part of the IYS, several films have been shot in France. The aim is to promote the actions of the OFB for the protection of salmo salar. These films will be translated into English very soon, before the annual NASCO meeting.

<https://ofb.gouv.fr/actualites/des-especes-preserver-qui-reviennent>.

Other actions have been implemented regionally by the French "great migratory associations". The links to their websites are on the attached map.



The year 2021 will be devoted to writing new plans for most of the basins river. All of them will take into account the actions identified in the IP.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: unveiled on 4 July 2018, the Biodiversity Plan aims to strengthen France's action to preserve biodiversity or to restore it when it is degraded. The aim is to improve the lives of French people in the short term and to guarantee that of future generations. Some actions are connected with our IP. For example:

Action 39: we will launch an operational study aimed at absorbing 20 main black spots in ecological coherence regional schemes and will restore the aquatic continuity over 50,000 km of watercourses in 2030. It is about selecting obstacles of ecological continuities (road and rail infrastructures, dams, etc.) and work towards their removal. This work will contribute in an exemplary way to the ecological continuities restoration and accelerate the implementation of the green and blue weft.

Action 42: By 2020, national multi-species or habitats action plans will be developed for the most endangered species, particularly in overseas territories. These action plans make it possible to synthesize available knowledge and threats and identify the priorities that will be brought by the plan partners. The interest of multi-species plans and habitats is to be able to identify the actions that contribute to the preservation of several species, simultaneously, and thus multiply the action.

The 2nd cycle of the French implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, adopted in 2019, addresses salmon conservation and management. Environmental indicators linked to salmon conservation and management are followed up in that framework.

2019: no response provided.

2020: no response provided.

European Union – Germany

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: due to new developments and findings the 'Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine' of 2009 (ICPR report no. 179) has been updated. Complementary measures such as the evaluation and control of fishways, of measures against illegal fishery, and of stocking strategies as well as increasing reference to other fish species than salmon and sea trout have been added. Also, the 200 ha of juvenile salmon habitats identified in the Swiss Aare catchment and the High Rhine tributaries downstream the mouth of R. Aare extending the known salmon and juvenile fish habitat in the Rhine catchment to 1200 ha have been taken into account. A new chapter on the state of knowledge and protection techniques for downstream fish migration has equally been added.

A chapter on the balance presents the implementation of the most important measures and recommendations so far listed in the Master Plan 2009.

The overarching objective of the Master Plan Migratory Fish is still to achieve self-sustaining and stable populations of migratory fish in the Rhine catchment.

Further information on future challenges for migratory fish in the Rhine are available in the concerned ICPR report no. 247 and the corresponding fact sheet.

2019: the 16th Conference of Rhine Ministers took place in Amsterdam in 2020. They mentioned that important progress has been made in restoring the ecological passability of the Rhine and its catchment area since 2013. In 2019, a new large Upper Rhine fish pass in Gerstheim 2019 was commissioned.

Moreover, the new forward-looking ‘Rhine 2040 Programme’ was adopted with ambitious goals. It is aiming among others at reaching ecological passability for migratory fish upstream and downstream in the Rhine main stream from the mouth to the Rhine Falls and within the programme waters of the master plan for migratory fish (ICPR Technical Report No. 247 (2018): Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine 2018).

To restore ecological passability, the fish pass at Rhinau will be operational in 2024. The fish pass near Marckolsheim will be operational in 2026. The fish pass for the complex area Vogelgrün will be operational as soon as possible to ensure compliance with the relevant EU legislation, so that migratory fish can reach the Old(-Rest-)Rhine and Basel again.

The restoration of fish passability in the High Rhine up to the Rhine Falls and in the Swiss programme waters (Aare, Reuss, Limmat) will be implemented.

Long-distance migratory fish resettlement programmes have been running in tributaries of the River Elbe for many years. These programmes are supported by regional fishing associations or the federal states themselves and are accompanied by the federal states fisheries research institutes. For the stakeholders on the Elbe was the ‘International Year of the Salmon’ an opportunity to move the whole Elbe river basin into focus. The efforts of all local stakeholders to protect long-distance migratory salmonids are to be co-ordinated under the umbrella brand ‘*Salmo albis*’. The kick-off event for the transnational programme took place on June 6, 2019 in the Saxon Switzerland National Park Center in Bad Schandau. As part of the well-attended event, 1,000 salmon parr were symbolically released into the Elbe.

2020: the 16th Conference of Rhine Ministers took place in Amsterdam in 2020. They mentioned that important progress has been made in restoring the ecological passability of the Rhine and its catchment area since 2013. In 2019, a new large Upper Rhine fish pass in Gerstheim 2019 was commissioned.

Moreover, the new forward-looking "[Rhine 2040" programme](#) was adopted with ambitious goals. It is aiming among others at reaching ecological passability for migratory fish upstream and downstream in the Rhine main stream from the mouth to the Rhine Falls and within the programme waters of the master plan for migratory fish (ICPR Technical Report No. 247 (2018): Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine 2018).

To restore ecological passability, the fish pass at Rhinau will be operational in 2024. The fish pass near Marckolsheim will be operational in 2026. The fish pass for the complex area Vogelgrün will be operational as soon as possible to ensure compliance with the relevant EU legislation, so that migratory fish can reach the Old(-Rest-)Rhine and Basel again.

The restoration of fish passability in the High Rhine up to the Rhine Falls and in the Swiss programme waters (Aare, Reuss, Limmat) will be implemented.

The migratory fish programm of North Rhine-Westphalia which includes measures for the reintroduction of Atlantic Salmon was prolonged until 2027.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no response provided.

2019: no response provided.

2020: no response provided.

European Union – Ireland

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: the North-South Standing Scientific Committee for Inland Fisheries (NSSSCIF) was formed in early 2018 to support the all-island provision of scientific advice relating to the conservation and sustainable exploitation of the inland fisheries resource including such matters concerning Atlantic salmon. Scientific advice is provided in response to requests from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and its agency Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs from Northern Ireland and the Loughs Agency, a North-South Implementation Body. This group is also tasked to give consideration to the co-ordination and effective use of scientific resources for data collection and research projects linked to the above. The NSSSCIF Terms of Reference facilitates the formation of Expert Groups drawn from within the membership of the Committee, or additional invitees as required, to advise and contribute on any particular species, aquatic habitat or biosecurity issues. To this end, the NSSSCIF has established an expert group, the ‘Technical Expert Group on Salmon’, to provide scientific advice (including annual river-specific stock assessments) to guide the NSSSCIF and IFI management in the decisions and policy development relating to salmon in Ireland.

2019: no response provided.

2020: no response provided.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no response provided.

2019: No response provided.

2020: No response provided.

European Union – Portugal

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: no IP / APR submitted.

2019: no response provided.

2020: no response provided.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no IP / APR submitted.

2019: adoption of the Edital n.º 836/2019, of the 11th July, allowing a fishery to take place in the 2019 – 2020 season, subject to change depending on results.

2020: adoption of the Edital n.º 836/2019, of the 11th July, allowing a fishery to take place in the 2019-2020 season, subject to change depending on results.

European Union – Spain (Asturias)

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: there are no major changes in fishing regulations. Some wild specimens in fishing season have been donated by fishermen for artificial spawning. Fishing is allowed only by anglers in the river. While fishing in the sea or on the coast is prohibited.

2019: some wild specimens in fishing season have been donated by fishermen for artificial spawning. This measure will continue to be promoted.

2020: there is a program to reserve large salmon in season fishing (MSW) for rearing and restocking. Some wild specimens in fishing season have been donated by fishermen for artificial spawning. This measure will continue to be promoted. In the Narcea River, 10% of the salmon caught has been donated for spawning.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no response provided.

2019: no response provided.

2020: there are no big changes. The annual regulation for salmon fishing includes a prohibition in certain periods of some fishing gear to reduce extraction.

European Union – Spain (Cantabria)

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: none.

2019: none.

2020: none.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: Management Plans for each SAC (were approved during 2017, <https://boc.cantabria.es/boces/verBoletin.do?idBolOrd=19089>).

2019: none.

2020: none.

European Union – Spain (Galicia)

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: the Interreg Project MIGRAMIÑO-MINHO, with the participation of Spain and Portugal, started at the end of 2016 with the aim of improving the status of migratory fish populations of the international reach of river Miño and of their riverine habitat conditions and is still ongoing.

2019: no relevant changes.

2020: regulations for fishing in 2020 included some restrictions on the season duration not reported in last APR because of its limited scope. These restrictions have been extended almost

everywhere in 2021, limiting the salmon season to 2 months (May-June) instead of three (to the end of July) and banning fishing for all species from the first of July in salmon reaches, where in some cases sea-trout season extended to the end of September in previous. The aim of these regulations is to reduce fishing effort (about 1/3) and to protect salmon preventing by-catching and unwanted injuries.

MIGRAMINHO interreg project will be concluded in 2021, with quite interesting results and a relevant recommendations on fishery regulations that are expected to be applied along the next years in Spain and Portugal.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no response provided.

2019: fishing for salmon in river Lérez has been banned for the 2020 season, due to poor population status (few returns to the trap; low parr densities). Underwards, fishing is allowed only in 5 rivers, instead of the 6 noticed in the original IP.

2020: see comment for 2020 under ‘Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight’ above.

European Union – Spain (Gipuzkoa)

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: no IP / APR provided.

2019: no APR provided.

2020: no APR provided.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no IP / APR provided.

2019: no APR provided.

2020: no APR provided.

European Union – Spain (Navarra)

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: under the framework of the LIFE IREKIBAI project (LIFE14 NAT/ES/000186), a salmon radiotracking scheme has been implemented during 2018. 28 adult salmon were marked in the lower parts of the Bidasoa river basin when they entered from the sea and were tracked during the upstream migration. As a result of the monitoring, important aspects related to the fluvial phase of the salmon life cycle in the Bidasoa River were identified: identification of upstream and downstream migration problems; reproductive success ratio; before and after spawning survival; spawning dates and location; degree of the basin colonization; etc. The analysis of the data gathered through the monitoring is still ongoing and the results will be published in the webpage of the LIFE IREKIBAI project as soon as they are available.

2019:

- 1) This year three more dams have been demolished in the Bidasoa River basin: two dams of the Oronoz Hydropower station ('Presas de la Central de Oronoz' coded BI-10 in the Obstacles Data Base and located in the main Bidasoa River and 'Presas del túnel de la Central de Oronoz' coded BI-AR-05 and located in Artesiaga stream, a tributary of Bidasoa River) and dam of 'Molino de Elgorriaga' (code BI-EZ-10, in Ezkurra River, one of the main tributaries of the Bidasoa River).
- 2) Under the framework of the LIFE IREKIBAI project (LIFE14 NAT/ES/000186), a salmon radiotracking scheme was started in 2018 and followed during 2019. This year 24 adult salmon have been marked in the lower parts of the Bidasoa river basin when they entered from the sea and were tracked during the upstream migration and return to the sea of the surviving kelts. Although the analysis of the data gathered in 2019 is still ongoing, the results of the monitoring of the 28 salmon marked in 2018 are available and published in the webpage of the LIFE IREKIBAI project (http://www.irekibai.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/D9_Radioseguimiento-de-salm%C3%B3n_Migraci%C3%B3n-2018-19_compressed.pdf). It was possible to identify important aspects as the passability of the 10 fishways built in the main Bidasoa River for salmon migration; timing, water flow and temperature during the upstream and downstream migrations; the natural mortality during summer (that reached 75% of the marked fish, with water temperatures above 20°C); the location of the most used pools for summer survival; degree of colonization of the basin; spawning areas; kelt's surviving rate (14% of the marked fish), etc. As soon as the data of the 2019 monitoring are analysed, a report will be published in the same LIFE IREKIBAI project webpage. All the information gathered through these monitoring schemes will be used by the Government of Navarra in the management of the species with the objective of improving its population size and conservation status.
- 3) Besides, in 2019 a new programme of voluntary donations has been implemented with anglers. Under this programme, on a voluntary basis anglers can donate each captured alive salmon to the Department of Environment to be marked with a transmitter and released for its monitoring in the river or to be brought to the fish farm of the Government and used as breeder. Five salmon out of the 47 salmon caught in the 2019 angling season (11%), were donated (four females and a male, all of them 2SW) and anglers in all cases decided to bring them to the fish farm. All of them survived until the spawning season, and produced 30,000 eggs. At the moment the new born fries are growing to be released in spring in the river under the restocking scheme that the Government of Navarra carries out in Bidasoa River yearly since the 90's. The main objective of this programme is to change the anglers' way of thinking towards a more sustainable angling practice that should lead in the future to the normalization of the 'catch and release' angling (not practiced by anglers in the Bidasoa River at the moment), while anglers are involved in the conservation tasks of the species that the Regional Government carries out in Bidasoa River. This results are considered as an important success as the media impact has been quite important and the general public acceptance big, which would certainly encourage more anglers to join the initiative in the coming seasons.
- 4) Finally, after the 'Bidasoa Salmon Management Plan for the period 2013-2018' came to an end, a new document was drafted and discussed with the angling associations, universities and conservationists in the 'Fishing Advisory Commission' before the 'Bidasoa Salmon Management Plan for the period 2019-2024' was proposed for a broader public consultation. After the consultation process, the document was finally adopted by the Government of Navarra.

2020:

- 1) A salmon radiotracking scheme started in 2018 and followed since then. This year, 28 adult salmon have been marked in the lower parts of the Bidasoa river basin when they entered from the sea and were tracked during the upstream migration and return to the sea of the surviving kelts. Although the analysis of the data gathered in 2020 is still ongoing, the results of the monitoring of the 24 salmon marked in 2019 are available and published in the webpage of the LIFE IREKIBAI project (https://www.irekibai.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/D9_Radioseguimiento-de-salmon_Migracion-2019-20.pdf). It was possible to identify important aspects as the passability of the 10 fishways built in the main Bidasoa River for salmon migration; timing, water flow and temperature during the upstream and downstream migrations; the natural mortality during summer; the location of the most used pools for summer survival; degree of colonization of the basin; spawning areas; kelt's surviving rate, etc. As soon as the data of the 2020 monitoring are analysed, a report will be published in the webpage of the Government of Navarra where the annual salmon reports are uploaded (http://www.navarra.es/home_es/Temas/Medio+Ambiente/Pesca/Especies+pecscables.htm), since the LIFE IREKIBAI project has come to end. All the information gathered through these monitoring schemes will be used by the Government of Navarra in the management of the species with the objective of improving its population size and conservation status.
- 2) Besides, in 2019 a new programme of voluntary donations was implemented with anglers and during this year, the programme continued. Under this programme, on a voluntary basis anglers can donate each captured alive salmon to the Department of Environment to be marked with a transmitter and released for its monitoring in the river or to be brought to the fish farm of the Government and used as breeder. Four salmon out of the 53 salmon caught in the 2020 angling season (7.5%), were donated (four 2SW females) and anglers in all cases decided to bring them to the fish farm. All of them survived until the spawning season, and produced around 33,000 eggs. At the moment the new born fries are growing in the fish farm and will be released in spring in the river under the restocking scheme that the Government of Navarra carries out in Bidasoa River yearly since the 90's. The main objective of this programme is to change the anglers' way of thinking towards a more sustainable angling practice that should lead in the future to the normalization of the "catch and release" angling (no practiced by anglers in the Bidasoa River at the moment), while anglers are involved in the conservation tasks of the species that the Regional Government carries out in Bidasoa River. This results are considered as an important success as the media impact has been quite important in both years and the general public acceptance big, which would certainly encourage more anglers to join the initiative in the coming seasons.
- 3) For the first year, in 2020 the new system to control de smolts production in the basin was successfully tested. The system is based on the counting of the smolts trapped in the most downstream hydroelectric canal, through the use of a fish pump connected to a fish counter, that release the smolts trapped in the canal safely to the river. Number of smolts and biometric data were collected.
- 4) Finally, following two studies foreseen in the "Bidasoa Salmon Management Plan for the period 2019-2024" and the "Salmon Implementation Plan" have been carried out: "Establishment of Conservation Limits for Atlantic Salmon in the Bidasoa River" (still not finished) and "Study of genetic variability of Bidasoa salmon".

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: a new angling regulation is adopted every year. The only aspect that concerns the salmon is the number of fish that can be captured (TAC).

2019: annually, a regional law (Orden Foral de Vedas) regulates salmon fishing: defines the Authorized Total Catch (TAC) in the season, the closing date (if the TAC has not been reached before), MSW protection measures, fishing calendar, minimum size, baits, hooks, etc.

Besides, the ‘Bidasoa Salmon Management Plan for the period 2019-2024’ has been finally adopted by the Government of Navarra. In 2019 it was OF 32/2019.

As explained before, the radiotracking monitoring programme started in 2018, continued in 2019 and it is expected to continue at least in 2020.

2020: annually, a regional law (Orden Foral de Vedas) regulates salmon fishing: defines the Authorized Total Catch (TAC) in the season, the closing date (if the TAC has not been reached before), MSW protection measures, fishing calendar, minimum size, baits, hooks, etc. In 2020 it was OF 27E/2020.

As explained before, the radiotracking monitoring programme started in 2018 and the voluntary donations programme in 2019. Both continued in 2020 and it is expected they will also continue at least during 2021.

European Union – Sweden

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: coastal catch of salmon has been insignificant in 2015 – 2018 due to new fishing rules and a restricted licensing system. Hence, mixed-stock fishery on the coast is not a problem anymore. Restrictions on landing of large salmon in rivers below full reproductive capacity will be enforced in 2020.

2019: local engagement in the river organizations has resulted in local fishing rules in order to complement national legislation and reach a higher protection of weak stocks. There is also a rapid increase in catch and release in sport fishing.

2020: local engagement in the river organizations has resulted in local fishing rules in order to complement national legislation and reach a higher protection of weak stocks. There is also a rapid increase in catch and release in sport fishing.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no response provided.

2019: no.

2020: no.

United Kingdom – England and Wales

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: new byelaws came into effect in England in December 2018 to reduce fishing mortality in English fisheries and on the Border Esk (border river with Scotland); the proposals were developed by the Environment Agency (EA) in England and followed an extensive period of

consultation. The new measures will apply from the 2019 season and aim to protect and restore stocks, the measures include:

- the closure of many net fisheries, including all remaining drift net fisheries, and the introduction of mandatory catch-and-release (C&R) of salmon in some other net fisheries where some fishing for sea trout will be allowed to continue. The latter fisheries will be permitted provided these predominantly take sea trout, do not threaten sea trout stocks and provided any salmon caught can be safely released;
- the introduction of mandatory C&R by anglers on rivers classed in the lowest stock status category and all rivers categorised as recovering rivers (i.e. those that only support small stocks or where small populations have re-established in recent years in previously polluted catchments following improvements in water quality);
- the introduction of voluntary C&R targets in excess of 90% on rivers classed as ‘probably at risk’. Compliance with the C&R target will be reviewed in 2020 with a view to either continuing the voluntary measures or implementing mandatory C&R byelaws if stocks cannot be adequately protected by voluntary means;
- renewal of the existing ‘spring salmon’ provisions to protect larger, early running salmon.

A similar package of measures to reduce exploitation of salmon in Welsh fisheries was also developed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in response to widespread failure of individual river stocks against their Conservation Limits and following a formal consultation process. These measures remain under consideration (a Local Inquiry has been held to review and advise on the proposals). If approved, the measures would:

- introduce mandatory C&R fishing of salmon at all times for rod fisheries in all rivers in Wales;
- introduce method prohibitions on bait (worm, prawn and shrimp), use of treble hooks and use of barbed hooks (barbless acceptable). Exceptions apply on the three cross-border rivers;
- introduce mandatory C&R fishing and method controls on 2 of the 3 cross-border rivers – Dee and Wye (the Environment Agency take integrated lead for fisheries matters on the River Severn, the other cross-border river and measures will be reviewed here in early 2019).
- introduce mandatory C&R of salmon at all times in all net fisheries, with the exception of a small net fishery on the Wye. The latter has had catches capped at 2 fish per licence under terms of a lease;
- introduce revised start and finish dates for net fishing seasons.

Welsh Government will make the final decision on whether to implement these byelaws or not, or what form they should take. Until that decision is made, existing byelaws remain in place. However, salmon stocks remain vulnerable and so fishermen have been urged to return all salmon to the river; anglers have also been asked to only use methods that give released fish the best chance of survival.

Alongside these proposals for increased regulation of fisheries, both the EA and NRW are actively pursuing measures to improve the quality of the riverine environments utilised by salmonid stocks. Progress with actions is provided in the APR, document CNL(19)36.

2019: to reduce exploitation of salmon, in 2019, all the major salmon net fisheries around the English coast were closed and mandatory catch and release (C&R) was introduced on rod

fisheries exploiting those river-stocks of salmon most at risk. In 2019, no salmon were reported taken by the remaining net fisheries in England, which principally target sea trout (in 2018, 10,328 salmon were caught by net fisheries in England). In 2019, 189 salmon were caught by net fisheries in Wales (in 2018, 317 salmon were caught by net fisheries in Wales). In response to the poor status of individual river stocks of salmon in Wales, from 1 January 2020, new measures were brought in requiring mandatory C&R of salmon on all rod fisheries, along with additional method controls to help maximise the survival of released fish. These measures included the cross-border rivers Dee and Wye. Mandatory C&R of salmon was also introduced on all net fisheries in Wales, with arrangements for the last very small fishery under negotiation. The River Severn emergency byelaws (England) were introduced in 2019 requiring compulsory rod and line C&R and no netting of salmon. Concomitant emergency byelaws were introduced in Wales in September 2019.

Alongside the new fishery byelaws introduced in Wales in 2020, Welsh Government have asked Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to produce a 'Plan of Action' for salmon (and sea trout) in Wales. This is in development and identifies a number of measures aimed at stock protection and environmental improvement to be addressed (with partners) in the next ~5 years (many of those actions follow those already identified in the progress report, document [CNL\(20\)37](#)).

2020: following a lengthy period of consultation and challenge - including a Local Inquiry - regulations requiring mandatory catch-and-release (with associated method changes) were approved and introduced on all salmon net and rod fisheries in Wales in January 2020 to protect vulnerable stocks (see Action F3). A 'Plan of Action for Salmon and Sea Trout in Wales' was also launched by NRW in April 2020. The plan was compiled following discussions with stakeholders and Welsh Government and sets out measures and initiatives to address known pressures on salmon and sea trout stocks in order to halt and reverse declines (see: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/strategies-and-plans/salmon-and-sea-trout-plan-of-action-2020/?lang=en>).

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: various new NLOs and byelaws, as specified in Section 2 of document CNL(19)36.

2019: in England, new National Salmon and Sea Trout Protection Byelaws came into force 1 January 2019. In Wales, new All Wales Fishing Byelaws came into force 1 January 2020 and Cross-Border (Wye and Dee) angling byelaws came into force on the 31 January 2020. Details are provided in 1.2 and F3 of document [CNL\(20\)37](#).

2020: in Wales, new All Wales Fishing Byelaws came into force 1 January 2020 and Cross-Border (Wye and Dee) angling byelaws came into force on the 31 January 2020.

United Kingdom – Northern Ireland

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: as part of the IYS, the River Bush Salmon Station will host a two day public event in 2019 to inform visitors of the ongoing salmon research, monitoring and conservation work in N. Ireland. In addition there will be an exhibition open during office hours throughout the summer months to allow the public to see poster displays and a number of films commissioned specifically for the IYS – one on the work at the Bush and the other a children's animation on the life cycle of the salmon drawn by local school children.

2019: a number of successful IYS events were held in the DAERA area including an open day for the public at the River Bush Salmon Station in June. As part of the IYS Loughs Agency

held a successful, salmon conference in Omagh Co. Tyrone, the Agency has also run a Foyle Ambassadors program which introduced young people to environmental and fisheries management as a component.

2020: none.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no response provided.

2019: no response provided.

2020: none.

United Kingdom – Scotland

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: no APR submitted.

2019: the Scottish Government Programme for Government 2019 / 2020 includes a commitment to develop a Wild Salmon Strategy by September 2020. The Salmon Conservation Regulations for 2020 were laid in the Scottish Parliament in December 2019. First introduced in 2016, we believe this approach strikes the right balance between conservation of the species for future generations and those fishing for salmon today.

In October 2019 Marine Scotland Science published an information leaflet illustrating river temperatures in Scotland during the hottest and driest June-July period on record (2018). Such conditions are expected to become more common under climate change, unless mitigations can be put in place, and the implications for salmonid populations are serious. This is the first time we have made Scotland-wide predictions of river temperature and related these to potential impacts on fish. Marine Scotland has developed this new tool to help fisheries managers target priority areas for riparian tree planting.

A Salmon Interactions Workstream has been launched to look, in part, at the reasons behind the decline in Scottish Atlantic salmon. The first stage of the Workstream is the creation of an initial Working Group (established June 2018), independently chaired by John Goodlad and comprises of representatives from both the farmed and wild salmon sectors, Scottish Government and its agencies, and eNGOs. The Group will provide advice on how we move forward the dialogue on the interaction between wild and farmed salmon, its conclusions will help inform our Wild Salmon Strategy. The Group also works in parallel with a regulator's (SNH, SEPA, Marine Scotland and Local Authority representation) Technical Working Group which has been established to develop a practical framework for assessing the level of risk posed to wild salmonids (from sea lice). The framework will take account of the best available science, and is intended to underpin future planning advice.

In the interim, as part of any request for planning advice Marine Scotland will expect a condition requiring an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to be delivered for any consents for marine aquaculture planning applications (when there is / or there is potential for wild fish / farmed fish interaction). An EMP will initiate collection of environmental data which can be useful for monitoring sea lice levels in the areas around farms. The information can be used to highlight where impacts may be occurring and where there may be a need for remedial action. Marine Scotland provided advice in July 2019, with regards to the minimum criteria it expects within an interim EMP.

Scotland's Farmed Fish Health Framework commits industry, government, professional vets, trade associations and Scotland's Aquaculture Innovation Centre to work together to provide a strategic approach to improving farmed fish health in Scotland. We strengthened Scotland's farmed fish sea lice compliance regime by reducing the reporting and intervention thresholds and in June 2019 announced the introduction of sea lice reporting legislation in 2020, which will support a transparent and responsible farming industry. The introduction of legislation in 2020 will require all marine farms to report the weekly sea lice infestation levels to Scottish Government, one week in arrears. To accept and handle such information we are developing a fit-for-purpose IT system that will be available in sufficient time to support the upcoming legislation. We are working on the basis that reporting legislation will be introduced in Q4 2020. Intervention thresholds will be further reduced in 2021, unless there is compelling evidence to the contrary.

A draft Sectoral Marine Plan was issued by Scottish Government for consultation in December 2019. This suggested potential new areas for marine renewables development, mainly further offshore, and flagged up any potential interactions with receptors, including migrating salmon, and provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide comment.

2020: the Scottish Government Programme for Government 2019 / 2020 included a commitment to develop a Wild Salmon Strategy. Progress was delayed due to restrictions and changed priorities arising from the Coronavirus pandemic. However, a new Wild Salmon Strategy Advisory Group was convened in late 2020 and has met twice to date (March 2021). The aim is to produce initially, a high-level strategy document, followed by a more detailed implementation plan.

An exercise is underway to capture and map perceptions of fisheries managers across Scotland of regional variations in relative magnitudes of different pressures on salmon. This assessment is drawing on outputs from the National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (NEPS) regarding local densities of juvenile salmon and will be subject a harmonisation process involving national scientists, regulators and academic input.

Salmon Conservation Regulations for 2021 were laid in the Scottish Parliament in December 2020 and come into force on 1 April 2021. First introduced in 2016, we believe this approach strikes the right balance between conservation of the species for future generations and those fishing for salmon today.

Scotland's Farmed Fish Health Framework aims to address new and developing challenges faced by the aquaculture sector with a particular focus on the maintenance of high standards of fish health and welfare. It brings together the fish farming sector, government, regulators and veterinary professionals to work collaboratively to address challenges.

The Scottish Government has made significant changes to its sea lice policy. New legislation, coming into force in March 2021, introduces mandatory sea lice reporting by aquaculture production businesses. This will help the Fish Health Inspectorate to monitor and enforce policy on sea lice management. It requires average weekly female sea lice numbers per fish to be reported to Scottish Government one week in arrears, in place of current arrangements which require reporting only where specific levels are met or exceeded. Data received will be published to promote transparency.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no APR submitted.

2019: the Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2016 were amended with effect from 1 April 2019. The regulations set out, amongst other things, those inland waters where mandatory catch and release arrangements were to apply in the 2019 season.

2020:

- The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2019;
- The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020;
- The Fish Farming Businesses (Reporting) (Scotland) Order 2020.

USA

Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

2018: there has been considerable progress with the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative. For the East Coast of the United States, the IYS was launched on October 30, 2018 at the New England Aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts. The event included an opening lecture by Catherine Schmitt (author of The Presidential Salmon) and Madonna Soctomah (Former Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative with the Maine State Legislature) and a social event launching the new Atlantic salmon exhibit at the Aquarium. There was also a kick-off event at the Maine Discovery Museum on February 28, 2019 that included a lecture from Ed Baum (author of Maine Atlantic Salmon: A National Treasure) and a gallery event, featuring artist Karen Talbot's 'Maine's River Run Fish.' We have also developed several new outreach tools and contracted with a marketing firm to help guide IYS-related messaging to the four key audience groups.

In October of 2018, the Maine Department of Marine Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a new program to help fund Atlantic salmon recovery work and reduce the regulatory burden associated with road and bridge construction projects. The Atlantic Salmon Restoration and Conservation Program provides public and private parties working on road and bridge construction projects, bank stabilizations, dam repairs or other in-water projects the flexibility to pay a fee in lieu of mitigation efforts required by federal law to offset unavoidable environmental impacts of the construction activity. The in-lieu-fee program requires that funds paid are used to support other restoration work that results in, at minimum, no net loss of habitat or habitat function. Once sufficient funds are available, grant proposals will be solicited and evaluated by a review committee, convened by the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and made up of representatives from state and federal agencies. Mitigation projects will be selected based on an analysis of their ability to compensate for impacts of the projects paying into the program, and to provide significant benefits to Atlantic salmon and the ecosystem upon which they depend.

2019: in 2019, the Final Recovery Plan for the Gulf of Maine distinct population of endangered Atlantic salmon was published. The recovery plan details recovery goals, criteria, and site-specific actions needed for recovery of the species.

In 2019, we estimate between 30 to 40 events and media campaigns were held throughout the northeastern United States in support of International Year of the Salmon (IYS) reaching approximately 30,000 people. Events and activities included: An IYS celebration event at the Maine Discovery Museum in Bangor Maine; an event called 'Sea-Run-Go!' at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vermont aimed to educate the public about history, ecology and conservation of Atlantic salmon; and, the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network (ASCSN) brought students together from New Brunswick and Maine to work with hatchery

managers, field biologists and civil engineers to improve salmon habitat in the Miramichi and Machias Rivers.

In September 2019, the agencies that co-manage Atlantic salmon (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA's – National Marine Fisheries Service, Maine Department of Marine Resources, and Penobscot Indian Nation) began implementation of a one-year pilot of a new governance structure referred to as the Collaborative Management Strategy (CMS). The CMS is designed to improve collaboration, communication and transparency across agencies and among stakeholders. The foundation of the CMS is three Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit (SHRU) teams. These teams are in place to plan, prioritize, and implement conservation efforts that facilitate Atlantic salmon recovery. An oversight group, referred to as the Implementation Team includes SHRU Team chairs, the management board, a science advisor and an administrative co-ordinator. The Implementation Team is in place to make decisions on issues that cross-cut across SHRUs, including resource allocation, and to provide for conflict resolution.

In 2019, the Atlantic Salmon Federation removed a 23-foot section of the lower-most dam on the Sheepscot River, the Head Tide Dam. The completion of this project will allow for unimpeded upstream and downstream movement of endangered Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish including American shad, alewives, and American eel. The Sheepscot River has the only remaining locally-adapted stock in the Merrymeeting Bay Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit.

2020: major accomplishments and highlights of 2020 include:

1. Three teams covering three geographic areas where wild stocks of Atlantic salmon remain in the U.S. were organized and charged with implementing the United States' [2019 Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan](#) and coordinating recovery efforts in these respective areas. These teams have produced reports describing the state of salmon and salmon habitat in their geographic areas and ongoing efforts to further recovery. The teams have also produced preliminary work plans detailing specific goals and actions that they intend to take over the next 5 years to further recovery efforts. Details of this effort are described under H3.
2. We issued regulatory requirements for two hydroelectric dams (Ellsworth and Weldon) and a draft regulatory requirement for a hydroelectric dam on the Kennebec River that will require the construction of new fishways and adherence to strict upstream and downstream fish passage performance standards.
3. We went through contingency planning in response to COVID-19 to ensure the continued safe operations of fishways necessary for passing Atlantic salmon and to ensure safe and effective hatchery practices necessary to prevent the extinction of the Gulf of Maine population.

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

2018: no response provided.

2019: changes were made to the ESA section 7 regulations that, in part, provide for a consultation process that can result in the authorization of the incidental take of endangered salmon from certain federal activities (e.g., licensing and operation of a hydroelectric facility); however, these changes were designed to clarify policies and procedures and are not anticipated to change the outcomes of consultations.

2020: Program: the two federal agencies in charge of Atlantic salmon adopted the [Final Recovery Plan](#) for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment. The plan establishes recovery actions, a recovery strategy, and objective, measurable goals and criteria that define

recovery.

Program: renewal of NOAA-Fisheries' [Species in the Spotlight](#) initiative that identifies Atlantic salmon as a high priority species in the U.S. for focussed conservation efforts.

Program: NOAA-Fisheries announced a 1 million dollar competitive grant program to fund habitat restoration projects for Atlantic salmon.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
23 April 2021